



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2014

No. 105

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Be exalted, O God, above the highest Heavens, for we look to You each day for our protection and peace. Fulfill Your purposes by using our Senators as agents of Your grace. Lord, surround them with Your favor, as their labors bring honor to You. Deliver them from the traps set by their enemies. Give them hearts filled with confidence in Your prevailing providence, sustaining them with Your unfailing faithfulness and love.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SALUTING THE FLAG

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just by chance last night I was reading a book and it included a speech given by JOHN MCCAIN, our fellow Senator. What Senator MCCAIN talked about was some of his experiences in the prison camp in Vietnam where a man by the name of Mike Christian had spent an inordinate amount of time sewing on the inside of the pajama-like outfit they gave him to wear, and he put a flag inside his jacket—his shirt. This jacket was discovered, the flag was discovered by the

prison officials, and he was beaten really very much. He was beaten severely. Of course, they ripped the flag out of his coat.

We take for granted saluting the flag. We come in here and we do it every morning. By rote, we stand and do it. I am not too sure that we shouldn't think a little bit more about what we are doing when we salute the flag. I am going to bring that excerpt from home and I am going to submit it for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for everybody to see, about people who have been—for example, Senator MCCAIN was in prison for 5½ years. As we know, he was, on many different occasions, tortured. So when JOHN MCCAIN salutes the flag and when Mike Christian, a fellow pilot—he was actually a navigator on an airplane—salute the flag, it means a lot to them, and we should encapsulate that when we think about saluting the flag.

I will submit that excerpt for the RECORD tomorrow. I read that last night, late. I thought, when we salute our flag, we should think about it more than, I am sure, we do all the time.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans will control the final 30 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2363, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, postcloture.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 today to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the majority control the time from 2:15 until 3:15 and the Republicans control the time from 3:15 to 4:15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is no secret that the Senate, as of late, has been beset by partisan rancor and obstruction: one Republican filibuster and then another, and then another, and still more filibusters. That is why the legislation that is before us today represents a rare opportunity for the Senate to complete work on a bill that enjoys broad bipartisan support.

Senator KAY HAGAN's sportsmen's bill is overwhelmingly popular with Democrats and Republicans around the country, and for good reason. Forty million Americans who hunt and fish stand to benefit from this legislation.

The sportsmen's package represents years of bipartisan work—years—combining some 20 bills important to the sportsmen's community. The bill expands opportunities for sportsmen, promoting an industry that contributes almost \$200 billion annually to our Nation's economy. In Nevada, over 200,000 people hunt and fish every year. It is good for tourism. People come to Nevada to hunt for game, including antelope, elk, and bighorn desert sheep. We have wonderful fishing. We don't have a lot of lakes and rivers, but what we have is terrific. That is why fishermen come from around the country to fish in Nevada. To Nevada, it is a \$1 billion industry.

I was talking to my friend Senator BENNET from Colorado and he said in Colorado it is a \$4 billion industry. I would bet that even in a heavily populated State such as New Jersey there is a lot of hunting and fishing that goes on. It is good for the economy.

Senator HAGAN's legislation promotes hunting, fishing, and recreation, all while fostering habitat conservation through voluntary programs. Because of her tireless efforts building bipartisan consensus, Senator HAGAN's

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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